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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street - Room 700
San Francisco 3, California

Onions

WESTERN REGION BACKGROUND INFORMATION SERIES

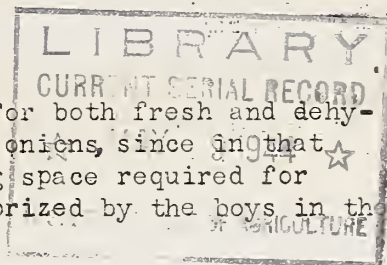
No. 1

February 7, 1944

According to figures compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics stocks of storage onions in the hands of growers and dealers are the smallest since January 1932 when the supply was only 1,916,000 sacks. Total stocks as of January 1, 1944 were 2,817,000 100-lb. sacks; on the same date for 1943, 4,186,000 sacks.

Why this short supply?

(1) There was during 1943 a very heavy demand for both fresh and dehydrated onions for military use--especially dehydrated onions, since in that form they take up approximately one tenth the shipping space required for fresh onions. Onions for flavoring are just as much prized by the boys in the service as by civilians at home.



(2) There was a short crop in 1943.

(3) Imports have naturally dropped. Only 15,000 sacks were imported in 1940 as against the normal of over 1,000,000 annually. Later import figures are not available for the duration.

(4) Because of the short crop and the OPA separate allowance of 30¢ per 100 lbs per month for storage, most of the onions are being held in storage as long as they will hold without appreciable loss. In most cases storage charges have been paid for the full season, an additional reason for holding the onions in storage for as many months as possible. For the most part, sales have been maintained at ceiling prices, plus storage allowances. However, "tie-in" sales have been mentioned which indicate prices as high as \$3.80 have been paid. Some markets which have been rumored as being onionless were really those in which the onions were not being sold because they were being held in storage up to the last minute.

The following table on U.S. production shows the relationship between acreage, production and returns to the growers.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Ave. Yield</u> <u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Production</u> <u>100 lb sks.</u>	<u>Ave. Price</u> <u>to Grower</u>
1932	124,950	125	15,650,000	.82
1933	107,560	117	12,622,000	1.28
1934	116,780	116	13,602,000	1.35
1935	146,370	101	14,763,000	1.42
1936	175,280	99	17,343,000	.85
1937	136,710	111	15,120,000	1.32
1938	140,770	110	15,422,000	1.11
1939	132,910	137	18,154,000	.88
1940	110,390	144	15,872,000	1.38
1941	98,510	154	15,187,000	2.26
1942	134,620	140	18,781,000	1.99
1943	108,890	136	14,816,000	3.23
1944 /1	135,000			

/1 Suggested goal (for departmental use only)

Source: "Commercial Truck Crops", BAE

The need for onions out of the short crop was sufficiently urgent in 1943 that the restrictions on civilian distribution were considered necessary. Production from certain areas was reserved entirely for either dehydration or military requirements. In the Salinas-California area the entire tonnage that met

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army requirements was reserved for the army except about 30,000 sacks which were sent to Honolulu for civilian use. The onions in the Salinas area were obtained from an acreage planted at the request of the army. Although no contract was entered into with the growers, a premium above the ceiling of \$1.60 per 50-lb sack was offered. Out of the total of 1,400 cars from this area, the army obtained 940 cars which met requirements. The remainder was released for civilian consumption.

A similar plan is again being given consideration for 1944, whereby the army could be given an opportunity to fill from 1,200 to 1,400 cars of their requirements from the Salinas area. This plan, affecting Australian brown onions, if entered into will no doubt be on an offer-and-acceptance basis but probably not on a contract basis. Under this plan the growers will offer to the army, or the government, for acceptance, such lots as meet requirements.

Tule Lake and Klamath onions were all reserved, and also most of the late Yellow Danvers in Oregon for dehydration purposes.

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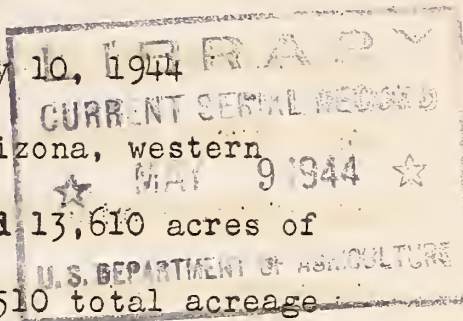
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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
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821 Market Street - Room 700
San Francisco 3, California

Cabbage

WESTERN REGION BACKGROUND INFORMATION SERIES

No. 2 February 10, 1944



Figures from BAE reports indicate that California and Arizona, western region's two major winter cabbage-producing states, in 1943 had 13,610 acres of that vegetable. This acreage represented about 28% of the 49,510 total acreage in the four principal winter cabbage states, Arizona, California, Florida and Texas. The 28% in acreage produced 40% of the tonnage or 110,700 tons. Total production for the four states in 1943 was 278,600 tons, while the 10 year average was 228,400 tons. Estimates from the Office of Distribution and county agencies show that approximately 48,000 tons were moved from Los Angeles and Imperial Valley counties in 1943.

Ordinarily, winter cabbage shipped from Arizona, California, Florida and Texas is found in competition on the same eastern terminal markets. Because of this, and the fact that the total acreage for 1944 is now estimated at 73,000 acres or 46% above the 1943 figure, the western region is particularly interested in doing everything possible to market, in an orderly fashion, its share of the larger crop, tentatively estimated at 515,000 tons for all the winter cabbage producing states. The following summary of carlot shipments of cabbage from Arizona and California during January, February, March and April of 1943* is indicative of the movement of cabbage during the peak months.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total
Arizona	106	63	65	66	300
Imperial Valley	122	354	335	15	826
Central California	4	26	33	18	81
Southern California	1	36	32	44	113
Northern California			5		5
	233	479	470	143	1325

* (Material prepared by Program Analysis Section from the daily Market News Fruit & Vegetable reports for 1943.)

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This represents only rail shipments for those months. There was as much moved out by truck in addition to amounts absorbed by local consumption.

Prices at wholesale markets in California during the 1943 shipping period ranged from \$92 per ton for graded and crated stock to \$24 per ton during the peak of the period. Prices at this time are comparable with those of last year but, with more winter crop cabbage in prospect prices may not hold as well as last year without special merchandising efforts.

Recent surveys indicate the crop from Arizona and the Imperial Valley and Los Angeles counties in California to be 25% over that for 1943. The producers of cabbage in these areas who "stepped up" to help appease the appetites of consumers of cabbage now need some assistance toward getting the cabbage properly distributed among the consumers.

Weather conditions caused growing and harvesting periods to coincide in Texas and the Western Region. This has resulted in peak harvests occurring at more nearly the same time. Hence anything we can do to increase the consumption of supplies of cabbage within the Western Region will help to reduce the competition on eastern markets and relieve the surplus situation both here and in other regions.

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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street - Room 700
San Francisco, California

Carrots

WESTERN REGION BACKGROUND INFORMATION SERIES

No. 3

February 18, 1944

Carrot production in the United States may be divided, according to seasons, into winter, spring, summer and fall crops, with acreages assigned as follows: 32,150, 15,200, 8,430 and 27,910, respectively, a total of 82,690 acres in 1943. The groups produced, in 1943, 7,763,000, 5,822,000, 2,786,000 and 10,538,000, a total of 26,911,000 bushels.

With this preliminary review in mind, check over the following table showing the relationship between acreage, yield per acre, total production and weighted average price to growers for the nine year period from 1935 to 1944, inclusive.

(As obtained from BAE in "Commercial Truck Crops" and "Agricultural Statistics").

CARROT PRODUCTION FOR MARKET

United States and Western Region Compared

	<u>Acreage</u>		<u>Yield Per Acre</u>		<u>Production (1000 bu.)</u>		<u>Ave. Price to Grower</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>W. R.</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>W.R.</u>	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>W. R.</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>W.R.</u>
1935	37430	19940	356	473	13257	9427	.56	.61
1936	38470	20720	356	478	13679	9906	.57	.63
1937	39610	23220	358	434	14183	10091	.59	.64
1938	44220	24090	363	458	16068	11034	.52	.60
1939	43520	24500	369	478	16061	11589	.59	.65
1940	47220	26820	368	443	17362	11873	.62	.71
1941	49550	27110	358	434	17747	11777	.64	.71
1942	60780	29150	333	360	20216	10497	1.21	.96
1943	82690	44150	222	344	26911	15843	1.37	1.56
1944*	82000							

* (Indicated BAE)

The principal states contributing to the U. S. totals are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

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Western Region expressed in percent of U.S. Total

Year	Acreage	Yield per		Ave. price to Grower
		Acre	Pro. Bu.	
1935	53.4	133	71.0	109
1936	53.8	134	72.4	110
1937	58.6	121	71.1	108
1938	54.4	126	68.6	115
1939	56.2	128	72.1	110
1940	56.7	120	68.3	114
1941	54.7	121	66.3	111
1942	47.9	108	51.9	79
1943	52.7	107	56.4	114

The above two tables are presented for the purpose of indicating for comparison the position which the Western Region takes in the production of carrots. The states contributing to carrot production in the Western Region are California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Utah, the two last states having moved into the carrot picture during the last three years. They do not greatly affect the total carrot figures, but do have an effect upon the price averages, since the carrots shipped from Utah for these three years show a range of from 35¢ to 50¢ per bushel, on the average. California is the heaviest producer both of fresh market carrots and processing carrots. Carrots from the Imperial Valley in California and from Arizona contribute heavily to the high price range, primarily because carrots there are harvested during the early seasons and are placed on the market as the winter and early spring crops. The Western Region contributes most heavily to the winter and spring crops, although the fall crop contributes no small amount.

Probably the most noteworthy picture presented by the two tables covering the Western Region is that showing the percent of the total contributed by the Western Region. In 1939 the Western Region produced 72% of the total U.S. carrot crop and in this same year its acreage was 56% of the total U. S. acreage of carrots.

In presenting these tables it is realized that yields, acreages, and prices

as reported in them are subject to differences in the manner in which the information was originally obtained and interpreted. However, the main purpose is to point out comparisons only, and not to be over-accurate as to the exact number of acres and the exact number of bushels produced. To illustrate, we know that carrot consumption, and no doubt production in the Western Region, has been greatly influenced in the last two years by victory gardens. Also, carrots are a relatively short maturing crop, hence changes in both acreage and production may be very rapid. Again, price conditions and weather may greatly influence the tonnage that might be reported, that is a crop may have been estimated at 15 tons for "bunched carrot" purposes and because of price or other conditions that crop may have been left in the ground to further mature and be used either as a sacked product or for processing, in which case the yield may run as high as 30 to 40 tons as was officially reported in two areas.

The highest producing area reported last season was Yakima, where a field was observed and reported as virtually "shelling" out 42 tons per acre. Another field of some size was reported in the Salinas area as running between 30 and 35 tons per acre.

The goal for the United States as a whole, as to acreage for 1944, has been indicated at 82,000 acres. No goal has been indicated for the Western Region, as such, and preliminary estimates indicate the acreage may be slightly under that for 1943. The resulting production from this acreage, however, may possibly be troublesome from the standpoint of large tonnages on some acreages. This was one of the disturbing factors in the surplus carrot deal last year. Another of the factors was that of weather, which caused considerable "bunching" of the maturity of fields that had previously been designed to mature at earlier periods. So far this season the carrot harvest appears more orderly than that of last year.

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Hi/2/18/44

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WESTERN REGION BACKGROUND INFORMATION SERIES

No. 4 (Support Prices)

February 25, 1944

War Food Administration has announced proposed 1944 support prices for vegetables for canning. The support prices which have been set are for snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, tomatoes, beets, carrots, lima beans, and are those at which canners must agree to contract with growers in 1944 to become eligible for protection under the support price program for canned products.

The grower who contracts with a canner who is certified through the AAA will have the assurance of receiving support prices.

The War Food Administration will accept all quantities of 1944 crop canned snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, beets, tomatoes, tomato juice, tomato pulp, tomato paste, carrots, lima beans, and spinach offered to it by certified canners at levels equivalent to 86-1/2 percent of the canners' gross civilian ceiling prices (approximately 90 percent of net civilian ceilings). Appropriate adjustments in individual canners' support levels in relation to area averages and for grade differentials applicable to formula maximum priced items will be announced by the War Food Administration after Office of Price Administration ceilings are issued. Special styles and fancy packs will be accepted at price levels applicable to ordinary commercial packs. The support level for certified canners who purchase raw material on the open market will be adjusted for any raw product costs below the support levels.

The offer to support the price of these processed foods will extend throughout the normal marketing season for each product. Packers may be required to store these commodities at their expense until 30 days after the expiration date of the offer in the event the War Food Administration does not have immediate use for the products. The offer to purchase, as a price supporting measure, the specified canned vegetable commodities, will apply to all quantities offered that

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grade U. S. Standard or better. Offers will be accepted from original processors only."

"The State and local AAA Committees will cooperate with producers and processors in every way possible to encourage contracting for the acreage needed this year. Lists of canners who contract with growers and make purchases at the announced support prices to growers thus becoming eligible to participate in the support program on the processed commodity will be prepared and certified by the State AAA Committees."

The prices which have been quoted and which apply to the Western region states are as follows:

1. Snap beans:

California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming; For pole beans only
Bush beans in these states
Oregon and Washington wax beans
All other states

Canner Must Pay
To Grower:

\$110.00 per ton
80.00 " "
110.00 " "
80.00 " "

2. Lima beans:

Washington, Oregon, California and Northern 1/ and Southwestern Idaho 2/
Southeastern Idaho, Utah, Wyoming
All other states

115.00 per ton
110.00 " "
95.00 " "

(The War Food Administration, upon recommendation of State Agricultural Conservation Committees, will determine maturity applicable to these prices and will establish price differentials for varying grades of maturity or color.)

3. Beets:

Washington, Oregon, and California
All other states

21.00 per ton
19.00 " "

4. Carrots:

New York and New Jersey
All other states

22.00 per ton
20.00 " "

5. Sweet corn:

Washington, Oregon and Northern 1/ and Southwestern Idaho 2/
All other states

23.00 per ton
17.00 " "

6. Tomatoes:

Washington, Oregon, and Northern and Southwestern Idaho	26.00 per ton
Northern California <u>4/</u>	25.00 " "
Southern California <u>3/ 4/</u>	27.00 " "
All other states	24.00 " "

(Pear-shaped or Italian tomato support prices are \$2.00 higher than the above except in California where the support price for such tomatoes is \$27.00)

7. Green peas:

Oregon, (except Malheur County), Washington (except Skagit and Snohomish Counties), and Northern Idaho <u>1/</u>	79.00 per ton
Utah, and Southeast Idaho	78.50 " "
Arizona and Nevada	76.00 " "
California and Montana	74.00 " "
Wyoming	73.00 " "
Southwest Idaho, Malheur County of Oregon	71.00 " "

(Prices include value of services rendered to the grower by the canner. Evaluation of services will be determined by the State AAA Committee. Breakdown of these average prices by varieties, grades, and for sizes will be established by the War Food Administration upon recommendations of State Agricultural Conservation Committees.)

(Source of information - USDA 1696-44)

FOOTNOTES

- 1/ Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, Nez Perce, Clearwater, Lewis, and Idaho Counties.
- 2/ Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Canyon, Boise, Elmore, Ada, Owyhee, Camas, Gooding, Lincoln, Jerome, Minidoka, Twin Falls, and Cassia Counties.
- 3/ Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties.
- 4/ Roadside delivery will be considered as the major assembly point in California for tomatoes.

"Canners will be required to set aside from their 1944 production about 70 percent of their 1942-43 average annual production of canned fruits and about 50 percent of their 1942-43 average annual production of canned vegetables. Government requirements from this year's pack of canned fruits are estimated at about 36,000,000 cases, and of canned vegetables, roughly 92,000,000 cases.

"Quantities that must be set aside during the approaching packing season amount to approximately 14,000,000 cases of canned fruits and juices, and 35,000,000 cases of canned vegetables more than the quantities required to be set aside during 1943. The increases principally are for canned apples, fruit cocktail, peaches, pears (Bartlett), lima beans, sweet corn, peas, tomatoes, and tomato juice."

Note: See reverse side for a table of new and old reservation percentages on 1942 - 1943.

1942-1943 PRODUCTION, NEW AND OLD RESERVATION PERCENTAGES

Canned Product	Average 1942-1943 production (millions of cases; No. 2 ¹ cans for fruits; No. 2 cans for vegetables)	1944 Reservation Percentages			Based on 1942 production
		On average 1942-1943 production	Basic per-	Contingency	Previous reservation
		centage	centage	percentage	percentage, Amendment #1, August 19, 1943
Apples	2.9	68	7	75	50
Applesauce	2.	47	5	52	0
Apricots	2.8	63	7	70	57
Berries 2	.6	68	7	75	33
Blueberries	.3	68	7	75	47
Cherries, Sour	1.8	68	7	75	39
Fig, Kadota	.9	42	4	46	86
Fruit Cocktail	5.8	63	7	70	40
Peaches	14.2	63	7	70	47
Pears	5.4	63	7	70	60
Pineapple	9.6	63	7	70	50
Pineapple juice	6.5	65	7	72	25
Asparagus	4.1	48	5	53	38
Beans, Lima	2.2	51	5	56	28
Beans, Snap	24.2	49	5	54	25
Beets	6.9	53	5	58	26
Carrots	2.8	143	7	150	58
Corn	31.5	28	3	31	20
Peas	35.6	37	4	41	23
Pumpkin	2.2	37	4	41	23
Spinach	8.5	44	4	48	15
Tomatoes	36.6	49	5	54	41
Tomato Catsup	8.7	51	5	56	28
Tomato Juice	24.9	58	6	64	56
Tomato Puree	7.6	25	3	28	43
Tomato Paste	3.9	23	3	26	21

- 1 Pack figures used in calculating set aside percentages under order
- 2 Blackberries, boysenberries, loganberries and youngberries.

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- Onions -

WESTERN REGION BACKGROUND INFORMATION SERIES

No. 6

May 19, 1944

With onions classed several months last year as a rare article on the vegetable counters and housewives searching grocery stores for even one onion we find we are now suddenly faced with a good supply on all markets.

The present temporary abundance is the result of expansion of acreage in the spring and early summer onion producing states of Texas and California. Texas last year had an early spring commercial acreage of 28,000 acres and produced 1,708,000 100-lb. sacks, and the late spring crop from that state amounted to 16,500 acres which produced 462,000 sacks. This year's early spring Texas crop, now about two-thirds harvested, is expected to reach a total of 2,683,000 sacks. The late spring acreage for Texas is estimated to be about the same this year as last year or between 16,000 and 17,000 acres. California, however, has jumped its acreage up to approximately 2,200 this year compared to 1,350 acres last year which may result in up to 800,000 sacks compared to just over 300,000 sacks in 1943. (See Table)

The additional production of the other producing states will bring the national crop of onions up to an estimated 3,850,000 sacks (100 lbs.) which is an increase over the deficient 1943 season by 50 percent, and 40 percent over the average for the past 10 years. This figure of 40 percent should, of course, be considered with the fact that this year (1944) dehydrators are prepared to take heavier supplies than last year and, of course, the dehydrators of onions were not in the commercial field during the years from which the ten year average figures were taken.

In face of these probable supplies of onions, growers have started harvesting and shipping onions somewhat earlier than the onions under normal conditions would be shipped resulting in an immature crop being forced on the market. In addition the onions appear to be mostly field run, at least there does not appear to be the number of graded onions that might be expected for the amounts now on the market. This may be the result of every effort being made, on the part of growers and dealers alike, to take advantage of the ceiling price of \$2.65 before the drop to the lower price of \$2.55 on May 15th. These onions, now on the market, therefore are not of good keeping quality and cannot be satisfactorily stored for any length of time. They must be purchased in small lots for immediate consumption.

We are faced therefore, with a large amount of immature onions coming in the market. These onions cannot be properly stored and they are, no doubt, of lower quality than normal. Consumer consumption must be encouraged, but also, producers must be induced to wait until onion crops mature before harvesting.

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UNITED STATES AND WESTERN REGION
Onion Acreage and Yield Compared

	<u>1932-41 Average</u>		<u>1942 Average</u>		<u>1943 Average</u>		<u>1944 Average</u>	
	U.S.	W.R.	U.S.	W.R.	U.S.	W.R.	U.S.	W.R.
<u>Late Spring</u>								
Acres	17,180	1,640	26,830	2,330	20,650	1,350	19,250 ¹²	2,200 ¹²
Sack Yield	954,000	234,000	1,586,000	419,000	889,000	270,000	1,167,000 ¹⁴	451,000 ¹¹
<u>Early Summer</u>								
Acres	8,380	2,500	9,050	2,650	5,500	1,400	7,220 ¹²	3,050 ¹²
Sack Yield	1,165,000	522,000	1,167,000	628,000	761,000	392,000	15	900,000 ¹²
<u>Late Summer</u>								
Acres	56,720	11,520	60,540	15,600	54,740	16,240	72,920	29,450 ¹²
Sack Yield	11,586,000	2,762,000	13,736,000	3,427,000	11,458,000	4,001,000	15	6,490,100 ¹²
<u>Total</u>								
Acres	82,180	17,660	96,420	20,580	80,890	18,990	99,390 ¹²	34,600 ¹²
Sack Yield	13,705,000	3,518,000	16,489,000	4,475,000	13,108,000	4,663,000	14,600,000 ¹¹	7,841,100 ¹²
Stocks on Hand June 1st (BAE 1-18-44)	3,643,000				4,166,000 ¹³		2,817,000 ¹³	

All figures not otherwise marked are taken from BAE report of 12-17-44. Commercial Truck Crops.

¹¹ Estimated from available figures on 1944 crop.

¹² Indicated April 1st BAE

¹³ Includes Military and Lend Lease

¹⁴ Marketing Reports

¹⁵ Not yet available

Onions

WESTERN REGION BACKGROUND INFORMATION SERIES

No. 12

September 6, 1944

August first estimates by the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicate a U. S. late onion crop approximately 51 percent larger in 1944 than in 1943. The increase over the U. S. 10-year average is about 49 percent. The indicated crops for seven western states total 9,475,000 bags of 100 pounds each. This is a 46 percent increase over the 1943 crop for those states and a 145 percent increase over their ten-year average. The production from these seven states makes up approximately 54 percent of the total late crop for the United States. In addition, Arizona has an estimated crop of 90,000 bags for harvest during late August and September. Most of the Arizona crop is expected to go for dehydration.

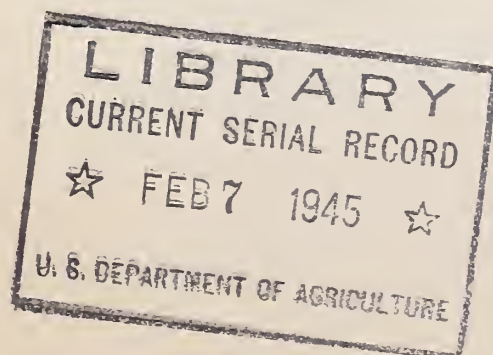
Indicated crop (August 1, 1944) late onions. Thousand bags of 100 lbs.

<u>State</u>	<u>1933-42 Ave.</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
Utah	271	264	300	520
Nevada	34	60	60	125
California	708	1,238	1,505	2,145
Idaho	794	850	858	1,485
Oregon	645	731	1,026	1,375
Washington	310	294	252	273
Colorado	1,102	1,998	2,464	3,552
Total 7 states	3,864	5,435	6,465	9,475
U. S. Total	11,586	13,736	11,458	17,320

Heaviest increases this year over last year's crops are found in California and Colorado. Indications, at present, are that the crops will probably continue to show as well as on August 1st. Because of heavy crop prospects, and because present prices are low and reflect slow markets, growers are contemplating harvesting as late as weather will permit. If this program is generally carried out there will appear on the market well-matured onions that should be of better keeping quality than the market has experienced the last year or two.

Present indications are that the bulk of the harvest will take place throughout September and October.

Varieties in heaviest planting are Sweet Spanish, White and Yellow Globe and Australian Brown. Most of the Australian Browns will probably be used in meeting Government requirements. Probably a heavy portion of the Globe varieties will be used by the dehydrators.



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August 1 onion acreage, 8 western states compared

States	1933-42 Ave.	1943	1944
Colorado	5,350	9,300	14,500
Utah	1,100	1,200	2,000
Nevada	160	300	500
California	4,080	7,000	9,750
Idaho	2,670	3,300	5,500
Oregon	2,680	3,600	5,000
Washington	1,280	840	1,050
Arizona	---	500	1,000
Total	17,330	26,040	39,300
U. S. total late	56,730	55,240	74,380

PLH 9/6/44